



Frances Cavendish 1628 – 1678

She was the daughter of William Cavendish 1st Duke of Newcastle and Elizabeth Bassett, born in 1628. In 1654 she married the parliamentarian Oliver St John, 2nd Earl Bolingbroke. They had no children during 24 years of marriage. They lived at Bletsoe Castle where she died on August 15, 1678 and was buried in the parish church where Oliver erected this memorial. The tablet on the left side was left blank, presumably for a suitable inscription when Oliver died, but apparently no one ever got around to writing his epitaph. There is some uncertainty as to whether the portrait shows Frances or her sister Jane.